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**Docket No. 13-035-184 Solar rooftop surcharge**

1 message

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**Dave & Inga Chapman** <chap65@gmail.com>  
To: psc@utah.gov

Wed, Jun 25, 2014 at 9:39 PM

To: Public Service Commission

From: David and Inga Chapman

Date: June 25, 2014

Re: Docket No. 13-035-184 Application of Rocky Mountain Power to increase its Retail Electric Utility Service Rates in Utah

We wish to file a written statement of position to the Commission regarding Docket No 13-035-184. Specifically, we urge you to deny the request by PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) to levy a surcharge on solar photovoltaic power producers.

In 2007, we constructed a 1.4 kW solar panel system on a rebuilt garage at our home of 37 years at 1471 East, Gilmer Drive on Salt Lake City's east bench. The system is net metered with RMP. For the past five years the solar system has provided 100% of our electrical needs; each year in March, RMP has benefited from the excess electrical energy we have generated at no cost to them.

In 2007 our monthly bill to RMP was \$4.99, subsequently raised to the current \$7.99. We understand that is an appropriate infrastructure charge for us participating in the RMP power distribution system. We do not object to occasional increases in that charge if it is shared by all RMP customers who consume electric energy produced by coal and gas fired power plants, by wind turbines, by geothermal plants, and by solar arrays. But to single out a particular class of customers who maintain rooftop solar systems is inequitable.

It is more than inequitable. Because I (David) lecture at the university of Utah on sustainability and energy systems, I am acutely aware of the trend for decreasing dependence on fossil fuel generated power, and the growth of renewable energy sources, most notably solar, wind, and for Utah, geothermal. Thus a progressive energy company with an eye on the future, and concern for our environment and citizens should be stretching themselves to incentivize alternative energy development. A surcharge for solar producers is looking to the past, not the future.

A sensible rate structure should encourage Utah citizens to reduce energy consumption and incentivize us to make personal investments in renewable energy. Rooftop solar installations benefit individuals such as the Chapmans by lowering energy bills, provide jobs for the local economy, improve air quality by avoiding the burning of fossil fuels.

6/26/2014

State of Utah Mail - Docket No. 13-035-184 Solar rooftop surcharge

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